

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing a project that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks, comprising the steps of:

defining a first and a second task of the plurality of tasks and storing the first and
5 second tasks in a database stored in a server that is selectively and remotely accessible over a computer network, each of the first and second tasks having a status associated therewith;

defining a first dependency relationship between the first and the second tasks and storing the defined first dependency in the database;

enabling remote updating of the status of at least one of the first and second tasks over
10 the computer network;

enabling remote definition of one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within the project whose resolution is to be tracked, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending authorization to resolve Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue;

15 storing the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order in the database; and

enabling remote definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and at least one of the first and second tasks and storing the defined second dependency in the database.

20 2. The method of Claim 1, further including defining a permission that defines access rights for at least one of the first task, the second task, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the permission further defines a right to at least one of:

remotely change the status of at least one of the first task and the second task, and
remotely change the first dependency relationship between the first and second task.

5 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-Start and Finish-Finish.

10 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the first and second tasks were defined.

15 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of enabling remote updating of the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

20 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the status of the first task, the second task, the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

9. The method of Claim 2, wherein the permission further defines a right to remotely change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining a selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation of:

the first task;

the second task;

5 the first dependency relationship;

at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and

the second dependency relationship.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation is rendered on a Web browser.

10 12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising a step of defining and storing in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined first and second tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

15 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein the computer network includes the Internet.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise boundaries.

20 16. The method of Claim 10, wherein the graphical representation includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the first task, the second task, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the second dependency relationship.

17. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting for the remote definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship when the status of at least one of the first and second tasks is updated.

5 18. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of enabling a document to be associated with at least one of the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and enabling the associated document to be stored in the database.

10 19. A method of participating in a project that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks, comprising the steps of:

accessing a remote database over a computer network, the database storing:

a definition of a first and a second task of the plurality of tasks,

a status associated with each of the first and second tasks, and

a first dependency relationship between the first and the second task;

15 updating of the status of at least one of the first and second tasks over the computer network;

defining and causing to be stored in the database at least one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within the project whose resolution is to be tracked, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken
20 pending authorization to resolve Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue; and

defining at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and at least one of the first and second tasks and causing the defined second dependency to be stored in the database.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein a permission is assigned that defines access rights for each of the first task, the second task, the first dependency relationship, the Issue, the Change Request, the Change Order and the second dependency relationship.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the accessing step selectively accesses the stored first and second tasks, the status associated with each of the first and second tasks, and the first dependency relationship between the first and the second task depending upon the assigned permission.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the permission further defines a right to at least one of:

changing the status of at least one of the first task and the second task, and
changing the first dependency relationship between the first and second task.

23. The method of Claim 19, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-Start and Finish-Finish.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

25. The method of Claim 19, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the *first and second* tasks were defined.

26. The method of Claim 19, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and
5 Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of updating the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the status of the first task, the second task,
the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not
10 started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

28. The method of Claim 20, wherein the permission further defines a right to change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

29. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of viewing a graphical representation of the first task, the second task, the first dependency relationship, at least one
15 of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the second dependency relationship on a Web browser.

30. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of inputting a definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship upon updating the status of at least one of the first and second tasks.

20 31. The method of Claim 19, further comprising a step of defining and causing to be stored in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined first and second tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

33. The method of Claim 19, wherein the computer network includes the Internet.

34. The method of claim 19, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise
5 boundaries.

35. The method of Claim 29, wherein the graphical representation includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the first task, the second task, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the second dependency relationship.

10 36. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the steps of associating a document with at least one of the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and causing the associated document to be stored in the database.

15 37. A computer system configured for managing a project timeline that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks, comprising:

at least one processor;

at least one data storage device;

a plurality of processes spawned by said at least one processor, the processes including processing logic for:

20 defining a first and a second task of the plurality of tasks and storing the first and second tasks in a database stored in a server that is selectively and remotely accessible over a computer network, each of the first and second tasks having a status associated therewith;

defining a first dependency relationship between the first and the second tasks and storing the defined first dependency in the database;

enabling remote updating of the status of at least one of the first and second tasks over the computer network;

5 enabling remote definition of one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within the project whose resolution is to be tracked, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending authorization to resolve Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue;

10 storing the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order in the database; and

enabling remote definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and at least one of the first and second tasks and storing the defined second dependency in the database.

15 38. The system of Claim 37, further including defining a permission that defines access rights for at least one of the first task, the second task, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order.

39. The system of Claim 38, wherein the permission further defines a right to at least one of:

20 remotely change the status of at least one of the first task and the second task, and remotely change the first dependency relationship between the first and second task.

40. The system of Claim 37, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-Start and Finish-Finish.

41. The system of Claim 40, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

5 42. The system of Claim 37, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the first and second tasks were defined.

10 43. The system of Claim 37, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of enabling remote updating of the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

15 44. The system of Claim 43, wherein the status of the first task, the second task, the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

20 45. The system of Claim 38, wherein the permission further defines a right to remotely change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

46. The system of Claim 37, further comprising the step of maintaining a selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation of:

the first task;

the second task;

the first dependency relationship;

at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and

the second dependency relationship.

47. The system of Claim 46, wherein the selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation is rendered on a Web browser.

48. The system of Claim 37, further comprising a step of defining and storing in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined first and second tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

49. The system of Claim 48, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

50. The system of Claim 37, wherein the computer network includes the Internet.

51. The system of claim 37, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise boundaries.

52. The system of Claim 46, wherein the graphical representation includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the first task, the second task, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the second dependency relationship.

53. The system of Claim 37, further comprising the step of prompting for the remote definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship when the status of at least one of the first and second tasks is updated.

54. The system of Claim 37, further comprising the steps of enabling a document to be associated with at least one of the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and enabling the associated document to be stored in the database.

55. A machine-readable medium having data stored thereon representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by computing device, causes said computing device to manage a project timeline that includes a plurality of interdependent tasks by performing the steps of:

5 defining a first and a second task of the plurality of tasks and storing the first and second tasks in a database stored in a server that is selectively and remotely accessible over a computer network, each of the first and second tasks having a status associated therewith;

defining a first dependency relationship between the first and the second tasks and storing the defined first dependency in the database;

10 enabling remote updating of the status of at least one of the first and second tasks over the computer network;

enabling remote definition of one of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within the project whose resolution is to be tracked, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending authorization to resolve

15 Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue;

storing the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order in the database; and

enabling remote definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and at least one of the first and second tasks
20 and storing the defined second dependency in the database.

56. The medium of Claim 55, further including defining a permission that defines access rights for at least one of the first task, the second task, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order.

57. The medium of Claim 56, wherein the permission further defines a right to at least one of:

remotely change the status of at least one of the first task and the second task, and
remotely change the first dependency relationship between the first and second task.

5 58. The medium of Claim 55, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships are selected from a group including Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-Start and Finish-Finish.

59. The medium of Claim 58, wherein at least one of the first and second dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least two of
10 the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order, depending upon the selected dependency relationship.

60. The medium of Claim 55, wherein the problem identified by the Issue is a problem that was previously unidentified at the time when the first and second tasks were defined.

15 61. The medium of Claim 55, wherein each of the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request includes a status associated therewith and wherein the method further includes a step of enabling remote updating of the status of one of the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order.

20 62. The medium of Claim 61, wherein the status of the first task, the second task, the defined Issue, Change Order and Change Request is selected from a group including not started, on track, complete, in trouble, on hold and cancelled.

63. The medium of Claim 56, wherein the permission further defines a right to remotely change the at least one stored second dependency relationship.

64. The medium of Claim 55, further comprising the step of maintaining a selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation of:

the first task;

the second task;

the first dependency relationship;

at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and

the second dependency relationship.

65. The medium of Claim 64, wherein the selectively and remotely accessible graphical representation is rendered on a Web browser.

66. The medium of Claim 55, further comprising a step of defining and storing in the database an identity of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having responsibility for each of the defined first and second tasks, the defined Issue, Change Request or the Change Order.

67. The medium of Claim 66, wherein the entity is selected from a group including a project team, a project member, a subcontractor and a vendor.

68. The medium of Claim 55, wherein the computer network includes the Internet.

69. The medium of Claim 55, wherein the computer network crosses enterprise boundaries.

70. The medium of Claim 64, wherein the graphical representation includes a selectively expandable hierarchical tree that shows the first task, the second task, the first dependency relationship, at least one of the defined Issue, Change Request and the Change Order, and the second dependency relationship.

71. The medium of Claim 55, further comprising the step of prompting for the remote definition of one of the Issue, Change Request, Change Order and the at least one second dependency relationship when the status of at least one of the first and second tasks is updated.

5 72. The medium of Claim 55, further comprising the steps of enabling a document to be associated with at least one of the defined first and second tasks, the Issue, the Change Request and the Change Order and enabling the associated document to be stored in the database.

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